



The Interstate at 50

RICHARD ROTHERT

- Formerly involved in survey work on the interstate system
- Currently an administrative assistant 2 in the Iowa DOT's Office of Driver Services

When I worked out of the Creston construction office I was involved in the surveying of land for the interstate from Osceola to the Missouri border. At that time, the interstate stopped at Osceola. I can remember how some of the farmers did not want to allow you on their land and how we had to jump skip farms because the state was in the process of getting the land. The land in that area was very hilly and most of it was over run with tall weeds which made it very difficult to survey. One thing I will never forget is how hot it was one day and all of us were so thirsty and itchy from the tall grass and weeds and it was like the good Lord was watching over us because we happened to be walking along and here sticking up out of the ground about two feet was a one inch pipe with the coldest artesian well water in the world. At the age of 58 I have never ran across that cold of water again.

On another subject, does anyone out there remember when we used to use pop bottle caps to mark the centerline on asphalt for the paint crew??